



Plight of the Honey Bee

COLONY COLLAPSE DISORDER AND YOU



What is colony collapse disorder?

- ▶ Sudden loss of the colony's adult bee population with very few bees found near the dead colonies.
- ▶ Several frames with healthy, capped brood with low levels of parasitic mites.
- ▶ Food reserves that have not been robbed, despite active colonies in the same area.
- ▶ Minimal evidence of wax moth or small hive beetle damage
- ▶ A laying queen often present with a small cluster of newly emerged attendants



Potential causes of CCD

- ▶ Pathogens
- ▶ Parasites
- ▶ Management Stressors
- ▶ Environmental Stressors



Neonicotinoids



- ▶ Created as a safer alternative to topical pesticides.
- ▶ Seeds are treated with the chemicals, which then grow within the plant.
- ▶ The chemicals are present in nectar and pollen, which the bees take back to their hive.
- ▶ Long-term sub-lethal doses negatively affect learning, memory, and behavior.

The other side of the debate

- ▶ Criticism of studies: overdosing of bees.
- ▶ Real-world contradictions: Canada, the United Kingdom, and Australia use pesticides but suffer fewer instances of CCD.
- ▶ “Let science – and scientists – do their work.”

The varroa mite



“A perfect storm of environmental stresses.”



A problem bigger than neonics

- ▶ Our agricultural system depends on pesticides
 - ▶ Because it depends on monoculture
 - ▶ Because monoculture is the best way to keep our grocery stores adequately stocked.
- ▶ The Paradox: our system relies on monoculture, but monoculture is unsustainable.
- ▶ Environmentalists advocate for the dismantling of our current agricultural system.

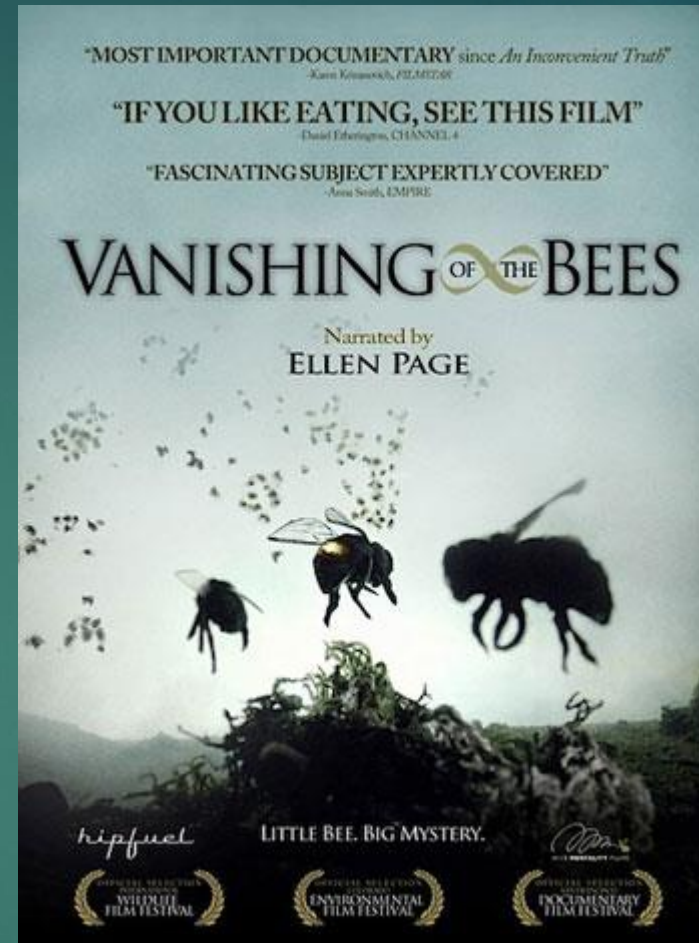
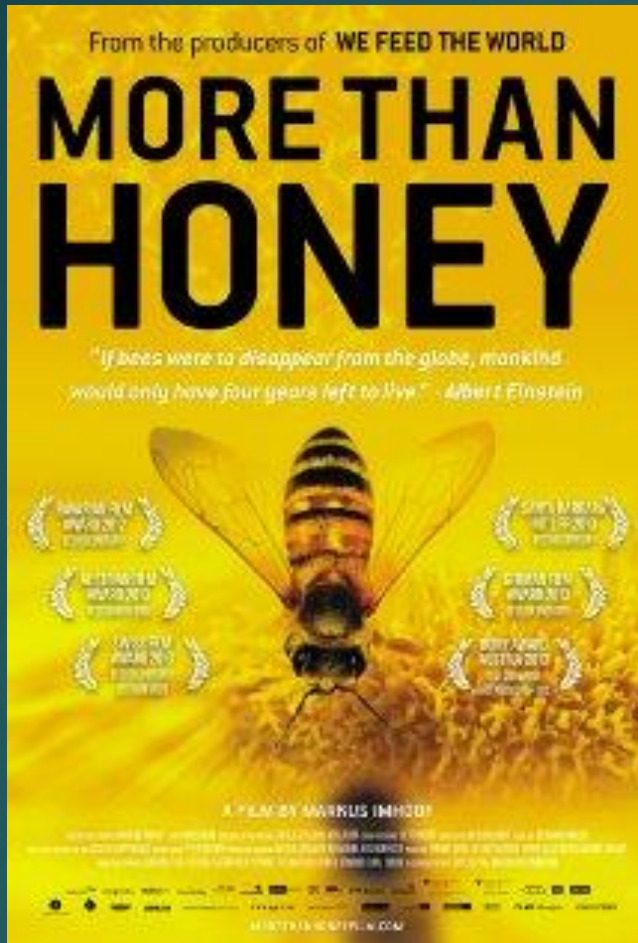
Urban and suburban solutions



Bees are friends!

- ▶ Bees do not want to sting you!
- ▶ Relocate, don't exterminate!
- ▶ Educate yourself!





The Kentuckiana
Beekeepers Association
www.kyanabees.com

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